

Christendom, Mount Athos, the Mountain of Silence in view of the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Mount Athos in 1961.

Dr. Philip Sherrard, a Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford, author of the recent important book *The Greek East and the Latin West*, and an expert on Greek Orthodoxy, was a happy choice for the inauguration of the new series. The color reproductions in this book are beautifully done and the text, though scholarly and highly informative, provides a brilliant verbal background to the even more brilliant photography.

After a brief chapter on the beauty and background of Mount Athos, Dr. Sherrard describes the development of monasticism on Athos from its origins to the present, in which is included a discussion of the current organizational set-up of the monastic communities, the art and architecture of the monasteries, and the physical and spiritual life of the monks. The five basic chapters ("Athos, the Holy Mountain," "The History of Athonite Monasticism," "The Organization of Monastic Life on Athos," "The Life of the Monk," and "The Contemplative Life") are well written and well documented. The reader of Dr. Sherrard's *Athos* can rest assured that he will have in his hands an authoritative account of the Holy Mount, with notes and bibliography, that uses the best of primary and secondary sources (Sherrard is, however, apparently unaware of Constantine Cavarnos's *Anchored in God*), and one that is strengthened and illuminated by personal contact with monastic life on Athos itself.

The way of Athos, Sherrard clearly indicates, is the way of silence. The way of silence is practiced by purification of soul and from the effects of the "fall", a purification which precedes the raising of the mind to the meditation of divine realities. The final stage of the way of silence is union with the Divine Itself. "For in it, man is resurrected to, or renewed in, that state for which he was created 'in the beginning'" (p. 102). To this way of silence and ultimate "deification" are the monks of Mount Athos dedicated. Dr. Sherrard, with the aid of magnificent color photography and excellent scholarship, has managed to capture vividly the essence of Mount Athos, both past and present.

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JOHN E. REXINE

Patrick Leigh Fermor, *Mani*. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1958. First American Edition, 1960. Pp. 310. Illustrated. \$ 6.00.

The name Mani and its concomitant Maniotes usually inspires fear and an acknowledgement of the ruggedness and invincibility of a Greek people in the Peloponnesus whose life has long been characterized as isolated from the rest of the Greek world. Even the Turkish occupation of Greece did not affect Mani in any complete or decisive way. For Turk and for Greek alike Mani was long looked upon as an area that could not be conquered and a district and people that were not to be easily trifled with. The reputation of the Mani and its inhabitants naturally helped isolate them from the rest of the Greeks, but it also made it natural that few travellers would venture to this region.

British author Patrick Leigh Fermor, an indefatigable traveller and an explorer of remote places, ventured to travel to Mani and when he did he was pleasantly surprised and much more fully informed about Mani than he could have been from mere reports. The results of his Mani observations are written up in a vivid way in a book which was a Book Society choice when it was first published in England.

The book rambles along, telling the reader some of the most routine details but always letting him in to some important cultural, historical, religious, and aesthetic appreciation of the Greek region that he deals with. The book is a mine of impressions, observations, and facts about Mani and the Maniots and is a significant contribution to English language travel book literature.

The study Patrick Fermor gives of the Mani is a highly personal one, but it is also one that is documented by personal as well as historical data. Fermor wants to get an integrated picture of the whole of Greece and one of the aims of this book and books on Greece to follow "is to situate and describe present-day Greeks of the mountains and the island in relationship to their habitat and their history; to seek them out in those regions where bad communications and remoteness have left this ancient relationship, comparatively speaking, undisturbed".

In twenty well-packed chapters, Mr. Fermor has given the reader a vivid picture of a region that is replete with religious, mythological, and social survivals from the classic and Byzantine Greek past but a region, which though cut off from the mainstream of Greek contemporary life, though with a people essentially the same for thousands of years, is still affected by whatever else happens in the modern Greek world.

Author Fermor gives us a sympathetic account of the Maniots, much-needed insight into that rocky central prong of the Peloponnesus that is the southernmost point of Mediterranean Europe, and a genuine appreciation of the Greek people and their ancient as well as mediaeval background. This book will be fascinating reading to the uninitiated.

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Donald C. Swanson, *Modern Greek Studies in the West: A Critical Bibliography of Studies on Modern Greek Linguistics, Philology, and Folklore in Languages other than Greek*. New York: The New York Public Library, 1960. Pp. 93. \$ 2.75.

*Modern Greek Studies in the West* will fill a long overdue need in modern Greek bibliographical studies. As the title clearly indicates, the compiler has sought to provide a critical bibliography of all books and articles on modern Greek studies published by Western scholars. In addition to French, German, English, and Italian materials, this bibliography includes several articles and books written by Hungarian, Rumanian, and Slavic scholars. Notable for its absence is a bibliography of books and articles by Greek scholars in Greek. Admittedly, the Greek material would constitute over one half the total number of